

With the Compliments
of
British Guiana United Broadcasting
Co., Ltd.

Georgetown,
British Guiana.

6/11/63.
I am.. Velma Hayes
Mr. alone - whatever has
become of the scripts
you borrowed some
months ago? U.H.
To copy

I keep on hearing complaints against the rising generation. Parent and other interested persons continue to tell me that the modern teenager is nothing short of an enigma even add that he or she is nothing short of a disaster. There is a great deal of soul-searching in educational institutions, Parent-Teachers' Associations and other like-minded bodies. Again and again comes the question - where have we, the older ones, failed them. There is such a variety of answers, so contradictory in themselves, that they amount to no answer. And that seems to be as far as we have got.

In the chaos of interpretation, however, I notice three things that seem dimly to appear in every discussion of the teenager or student problem. First of all many serious observers agree that adolescents and students are fascinated by violence or its near equivalents. And they seem to be fascinated by violence for two reasons; the old patterns of life; the traditional ways of living seem to them so frozen - so unauthentic that violence seems necessary to break them. But violence also seems to be youth's way of expressing his desire to make some meaningful contribution to the world as he sees it. He wants to do something costly, to commit himself to something that involves so much risk that he sees real value in it. Words and concepts are too complicated and they are often too shallow. You can only break through this smoke-screen by vivid and forceful action. After such action you can begin to think - if you think before, your action then may be paralysed. Paradoxically, this fascination with violence is accompanied with a quest for security. The world provides no longer a firm context for growth and young people need a firm context for growth. Hence you get a teenager and student groups, strong and often exclusive groups, which provide first those contexts which the adult world no longer seeks to give. Early marriage between boys and girls who are still practically babies seems to me to be a symptom of this search for security. Young people hope that the groups they belong to or the marriages they make will give them some sort of inner security. And this they need badly to face the struggle in a world that is constantly breaking into fragments, It is interesting to

note the secret codes of discipline that many of these groups have. In some student groups, in Universities these codes of discipline are very severe - but they answer a crying need - a real hunger for order - the sort of order that will give them the courage to undertake significant action.

But perhaps the most hopeful characteristic of the modern youths' response to the world is his passion for integrity. You often meet this young man and young woman who hate everything artificial. They are determined to be themselves and not to live by a double standard, the double standard which makes adult society seem to work. One can almost say that modern youth are in search of a morality which is totally honest and they feel that what they are offered by the adult world is a double-edged thing, it has a public as well as a private face and they want this system to have one face for all occasions. In fact this search for integrity is really a search for an absolute - relatives are phony - they are hypocritical, they simply produce men and women who live a lie. And this interesting feature about modern young people is ~~xxxx~~ the thing that gives me hope for them; they dislike hypocrisy, they dislike a society that seems to fail completely to work. They are in search of ideals. In fact, one can say they are the hope for the world because history has fathered few idealists as strong as the modern teenager.
